

Other Duties of a Guardian (Probate Court)

- ★ Annual Report to the Court
- ★ Notify Court of Change of Address
- ★ Obtain Court Approval for Move to More Restrictive Setting
- ★ Obtain Court Approval for Certain Medical Decisions

If you have any questions about being a guardian, call the Probate Court that appointed you.

***You may also get
information from***

www.ddmhs.state.vt.us

www.dad.state.vt.us

***[www.vermontjudiciary.org/
courts/probate](http://www.vermontjudiciary.org/courts/probate)***

DDMHS/DS

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How to be a Good Guardian

*This pamphlet was
written jointly by
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& staff of the
Guardianship Services
Program, Division of
Developmental Services,
Department of
Developmental and Mental
Health Services*

A Good Guardian...

Should

Call and visit often
Return calls
Visit if the person is hospitalized
Listen to the person's thoughts and desires
Help make decisions
Treat the person as an adult
Respect his/her privacy

Should NOT

Have a conflict of interest
Make decisions without consulting the person
Be disrespectful
Make decisions where the Court has not given power
Treat the person as a child

A Good Guardian Helps Ensure that the Person Is

★ Safe

In a safe house
With safe people who treat him/her right
With appropriate clothing
With a good support system

★ Healthy

Has good food
Has needed equipment: glasses, adaptive technology, etc.
Has a good doctor & dentist
Gets regular check ups
Isn't taking unnecessary medications
Side effects of medication are monitored
Gets prompt, appropriate, quality hospital care
Helps make choices about own medical treatment

★ Not cheated

The person's money isn't stolen
He/She isn't over charged
Loans are repaid
Rental agreements are fair
Deposit is returned when moving
People don't take his/her belongings without compensation
Work is paid

A Good Guardian Helps the Person

★ Get and Keep Rights

Find a good lawyer, if needed
Receive mail, use the phone and see family as desired
Be listened to at ISA or IEP meetings
Have choices
Get services and benefits that the person is entitled to
Vote
Have privacy

★ Make own decisions

Help the person follow his/her dreams
Be more independent
Find people to listen to desires
Find people to help take the necessary steps
Believe in the person's gifts and talents
Learn to make choices & decisions independently
Know how to appeal if dissatisfied with guardian